

Reply to Office Action dated July 19, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 6-18 and 21-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 15, 21-25 and 27 are amended and claims 1-5, 19 and 20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Various amendments are made for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and/or (3) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. More specifically, features of allowable dependent claims 19-20 are incorporated into independent claim 15. Thus, no new issues are raised. Entry is thus proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 6-14 are allowed and that claims 20-25 and 27 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, features of allowable dependent claim 20 (including intermediate claim 19) are incorporated into independent claim 15. Other minor amendments are made in independent claim 15 to provide proper antecedent. Thus, independent claim 15 defines patentable subject matter.

For at least the reasons set forth above, each of independent claims 6 and 15 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

Serial No. **10/621,463**

Docket No. **P-0563**

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 6-18 and 21-28 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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